

SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS (SFA)

Scotland-wide mobilisation to stop eviction of The Centre

Lothian Regional Council have issued a court summons to enforce the eviction of The Centre in Edinburgh. The court date is 16 September and 2 weeks later the sheriff officers can legally enforce the court decree by breaking into the Centre and, with the aid of the police, evicting the occupants. The Centre is preparing to resist this eviction. The SFA has already agreed that in the event of such a threat to Scotland's only self-managed oppositional centre, we will mobilise on a Scotland-wide basis to give practical solidarity.

The Centre stays open - Mobilisation and demo The week-end Friday 30 Sept. - Monday 3 October

People are invited to stay at the Centre for the whole weekend if possible, to maximise the number of resisters to any eviction attempt.

Saturday 1st October

March through the Broughton area in the afternoon

(provisionally assemble 2pm Barony St., off Broughton St. near the Centre)

Followed by an afternoon of activities at the Centre, with a major social event in the evening.

We hope that all SFA supporters will attend on the Saturday, and urge people to stay for the weekend if at all possible. Bring a sleeping bag! (anyone able to stay into the next week will be made very welcome) More details as plans develop from :
The Centre, 103 Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH1. 031 557 0718.

Scottish Federation of Anarchists contingent on Scottish demo against the Criminal Justice Bill

11am Sat. 10 September Waterloo Place (east end Princes St.), Edinburgh.

(demo organised by Coalition against the Criminal Justice Bill - 031 554 9209)

We plan to have an organised presence on this demo to spread the message that there must be mass defiance of the law to make it unworkable. Posters and leaflets to distribute are under preparation by the Glasgow group - info 041 427 6398.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS (SFA)

CONFERENCE 6 AUGUST 1994

REPORT OF MAIN DECISIONS

Held at The Centre, Edinburgh. Participants from Edinburgh (approx 14), Glasgow (approx.9), Dundee (2), Central Region (2), and Texas 1

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL

A speaker from the Edinburgh Network against the Bill outlined its implications. It is clear that this bill is not only an assault on certain groups such as hunt sabs, travellers, rave attenders and squatters, but an attack on all direct action and unauthorised demonstrations (aggravated trespass and exclusion zones round demos) and on everyone's civil rights (new stop and search powers, attack on the right to silence).

It was generally agreed:

That the main strategy should be to make the Act unworkable through mass defiance and direct action. It was obviously going to get passed (probably by October), it was no good relying on MPs to vote it out, we had to prepare now to resist and make it impossible to actually implement it (as with the Poll Tax).

That a leaflet and poster should be produced putting across this message. Alan and others from Glasgow to do.

That we should have an organised presence (black bloc) at any upcoming demos etc in Scotland against the CJB and distribute the leaflets and posters.

That, equally importantly, we should realise the class nature of this legislation and target propaganda at people attending court, in run down council schemes etc where working class people were already criminalised. CONT. OVERLEAF

That we should watch out for flashpoints where the state could use the new legislation against social struggles. An example is the resistance to the new Ayr road near Pollok in Glasgow. An anti roads camp is blocking the path of this anti social development, and there is some involvement in the struggle from the Pollok council scheme.

That we should mobilise on a Scotland wide basis for any major battle in the Ayr road struggle (could be in October or November).

That we should investigate the possibility of a rave/mass trespass against the CJ Bill near a city centre.

UNWAGED AND WAGED STRUGGLES

Andy from Dundee introduced this discussion, drawing on experiences of the Timex struggle and activities aimed at unwaged people in Dundee. It is impossible to do justice to this in such a short space, but a few of the main points raised were :

Leafleting dole offices in the Timex strike worked well - only about 2 people from Dundee scabbed.

The left wing parties (SWP, Militant etc) covered for the anti strike actions by the STUC and Union leaders in the Timex strike.

It is necessary to encourage workers to act autonomously.

Anarchists should have pushed our views forward more in the strike - we should learn this lesson for the future.

Opposition to loan sharks in Dundee was successful for a while. Single parents can be contacted by leafleting Post Offices on the day they cash their books.

However all such activity needs to be maintained over a long period to be really effective.

The Centre's leaflet DOLE HARASSMENT EXPOSED has been successful - naming names of officials who harass claimants.

Alan and others on Training for Work / ET type schemes are going to investigate producing a similar leaflet, and forming a group, for scheme workers in Glasgow.

A Centre, as exists in Edinburgh, is important for bringing people together. Efforts are underway to establish similar centres in Glasgow (an anarchist centre) and Dundee (an independent unemployed centre). An unemployed centre could get funding through collections at local workplaces.

Dundee Class War have successfully leafleted school students - leaflet examples should be enclosed with this report.

THE SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS

NAME : By a majority vote (8-6 I think) The Scottish Federation of Anarchists (SFA) was preferred as the name to The Scottish Federation of Anarchists and Autonomists.

SECRETARY : Ian from Glasgow was elected secretary of the SFA. He should be sent all addresses to be mailed to and material to be sent out (address below).

PUBLICATION The Glasgow Anarchist Review should become the Scottish Anarchist review. The first issue of this mag is currently being put together in Glasgow.

Future issues will be produced in the following way : (1) An initial meeting involving participants from all round Scotland (probably coinciding with a conference). (2) A working group based in 1 city/area will put the mag together (hopefully this responsibility will be rotated) (3) A final editorial meeting will involve participants Scotland-wide. A lively debate on the extent to which the editorial group could take an active role in changing/ refusing to publish contributions produced differing views! It was agreed that a viewpoint which was controversial/ disagreed with by the editorial group could often be included as a letter - as an alternative to including it as an article or not publishing it at all.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE SFA To be discussed at the next conference. Suggestions to the secretary. Dave senr. from Dundee has already sent a proposed Aims and Principles. The question of whether or not to have formal membership was deferred till the next conference.

SPEAKING TOURS We will co-operate in organising speaking tours, with public meetings taking place in Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, and hopefully other areas eg Falkirk, Aberdeen. Mike(Edinburgh) to investigate speakers from the McLibel Defence Campaign and Alan (Glasgow) speaker from Anarchist Black Cross in USA.

NEXT CONFERENCE - This was provisionally agreed for Sat 8 October at the Centre, Edinburgh. However this has been overtaken by the eviction attempt against the Centre and the consequent mobilisation for the previous weekend. It may be possible to have a brief SFA get together on the afternoon of Sat. 1st October at the Centre. Contact the Secretary with your proposals for a date for the next full conference and for the agenda.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF ANARCHISTS : WRITE PO Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA and mark envelope For attention of SFA secretary.

SFA CONTACT NOS. Glasgow 041 427 6398. Edinburgh 031 557 0718 (Mike, Neil, Eddie, Cloudberry, Morag, Em). Dundee 0382 816875.